

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00774 271002Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 SSC-01 SCA-01 CU-02 SAJ-01 /042 W
-----271016Z 128997 /17

R 270850Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0519
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0774

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: CHINESE CONSUL GENERAL ARRIVES

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0661 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL (DEAN OF ALEXANDRIA CONSULARCORPS)
HAS INFORMED US THAT CHINESECONSUL GENERAL LIN (REFTEL) ARRIVED
JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO "CONSULAR
ATTACHES" (FUNCTIONS NOT DESCRIBED). POST THUS JUMPS FROM ONE
MAN OPERATION TO FOUR MAN.

2. AT PRESENT ONLY USSR WITH SEVEN CONSULAR OFFICERS AND US
WITH THREE CONSULAR OFFICERS (PLUS ONE USIS, ONE USAID, AND
TWO ADMIN FSSOS) ARE LARGER. FRANCE, NEXT LARGEST, ALSO LISTS
TWO CONSULAR OFFICERS AND TWO CONSULAR ATTACHES. BOTH OF LATTER
ARE CULTURAL AFFAIRS SPECIALISTS.

3. IT QUITE POSSIBLE CHINA IS PLANNING CULTURAL CENTER
IN ALEXANDRIA. SIX WEEKS AGO CONSUL-IN-CHARGE REQUESTED AND
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PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00774 271002Z

WAS GRANTED PERMISSION OF FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL TO INSPECT IN
DETAIL FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER. DURING TWO HOUR VISIT HE QUIZZED
CENTER'S DIRECTOR AT LENGTH ON OPERATIONS. FYI - DIRECTOR GERARD
CHAUME SAYS THAT WHEN CONSUL HSIA'S APPARENT INTENTIONS BECAME
CLEAR, CHAUME TOLD HIM THAT IF CHINA WANTED TO IMPROVE THE
CULTURAL ATMOSPHERE OF ALEXANDRIA, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD DO BETTER

TO SPONSOR A CHINESE RESTAURANT RATHER THAN ONE MORE CULTURAL CENTER. AT PRESENT WE HAVE EAST AND WEST GERMANY, SPAIN, US (REBUILDING), FRANCE, BRITISH COUNCIL, ITALY AND USSR, PLUS ACTIVE CULTURAL PROGRAMS OF AUSTRIA AND GREECE DIRECTED FROM CAIRO. MEANWHILE, ALEXANDRIA MUST BE THE ONLY MAJOR SEAPORT IN THE WORLD WITHOUT A CHINESE RESTAURANT (OR EVEN A HALF-DECENT ONE OF ANY NATIONALITY). END FYI.
VALERGA

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